



Symphony No. 5

(crow songs at dawn)

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***white sky ebooks
west hartford ct usa
puhos finland 2013***

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WSE55

. . .

*It is said
that night brings
the closing ashen eyelids
brings
the interior ocean
of celestial sleep
brings
the frail spatial elegy's
weighted leaden spine
brings
the lace and
anthracite-lined metallic sky
brings
the blemished sands
of quantum time
bleeding through
immortality's corporeal seams*

and it is here
that the thorny husk
of transient ontological incarnation
grows blind in a vacuous fleshly womb
and it is here
that the faceless specter
of anonymity and death
exists in a tapering molecule's scarlet flame
and it is here
that the impermeable alchemy
of eschatological madness
forms the fractured outstretched limbs of myth
and it is here
in this field of orchid and ash
that eternal light remains
hidden in the black dissonant song of dawn's
approach

. . .

Four crows in a sylvan grove
when the moment was a boundary
to the lucidity of death
when the orchid field was drunk
with hermetic songs of dawn's expanse
it was then within the ossuary doorway
three maidens appeared
to drink the frozen libation of fate
where words were archetypal scribings
passing into the tongueless ocean's corporeal
void
where the fragrance of belladonna and
wisteria
died on a Paleolithic celestial shore
where the gaping existential bloody net
formed
the fog of a morning's firmamental embrace
where the entangling prosthetic cognitive
cleft
awoke within the bended eyelid's crepuscular
shade

speak then here of the many clouded arias of
 isolation
 of the many flowering forsythia blooms
 burning on the static mountain's vernal
 tapestry
 of the many detached faces of loss
 cowering in rooms with grey painted sloping
 eaves
 of the many chastened by a glass-eye
 blindness
 following the path darkness traces
 through the clotted thistle-wind's forest
 edge

2

 Morning comes without thought
 to define its presence
 awakening the eyes
 of detached plastic-laced faces
 awakening the mind
 to a subcutaneous terrestrial void

as if knitting together
the clotted membranes
of darkness and light
before the immaterial gods can repel
the threshing floor's corporeal denizen
before the mitochondrial crow can alight
the buried sanctuary's helical spire
before the observing corpse can interpret
the gray spatial waste's immortal prosthesis
before the decapitated rodent progeny
can inherit the sutured flesh's blooded coil
before the bloated apoplectic kings
can conceive a thriving city's leaching
spleen
before the toxically blemished quantum
hemispheres
can cloud the deformed vagrant's inebriated
mind

3

Three walls in shadow

at noon
the gulls cross
an eye's horizon
it cannot be
a process of calcification
or theorizing
that this world is
removed from existence
in spite of possessing
the amber hyaline threads
in the sweating outstretched hand
in spite of myths
perpetuating and shaping
the contorted statuary limbs
and it is on a page of unwritten irony
that words emanate
from above an unbroken cumulus overcast
and it is in the constancy of starlight
receding
that crows in isolation
understand the significance
in a satin gauzy moon-glow's sheen
and it is on the furrowed road

to anesthetizing destruction
that the orchid drapes
the transparent sepulcher
and the storm foretold
by the oracle's gaze
rages in the onyx horseman's
attenuated isolation of mind

4

The ghost within the molecule
speaks of a vicarious atonement
to breach the dissonant landscape of physical
loss
as when the unopened eyes relent
to the heaving unbending torrent
which saturates the sea with depth
which acquiesces to the prophetic obscurities
 mumbled in the unleavened acolyte's
insular world
which speaks of distance from the grey
insentient beast

writhing in the rusted heart's prosthetic
veins
distance from the widow's aged limbs
embracing the calloused word's tongueless
lament
distance from the isolated mirror's glare
blown across the frozen shipwreck's
ragged keel
distance from the windowless ossuary
clouded in condensate and sinewy
capillary threads
distance from the unseeing presence within
a room of the stone gnomon's shadows at
noon

5

...And
there
is
only
a

sea's
fathomless
existential
aridity
a
great
plainer
expanse
where
crested
waves
bleed
caustic
dissonance
an
empty
furrowed
desert
steppe
touched
only
by
the

strained
rays
of
an
unknowable
sun
singeing
the
fragile
sparrow
wing
blackening
the
silken
arachnid's
web

6

Further from here
the plaster and glass faces
are reduced to a number of indecisive measure

as in a quantum geometry
 of shrouded molecular surfaces
where there is no perspective
 envisioned by a skull of clouds filling
with rain
when there is no astral-tongued stone
beatitude
 falling from an ill-fated pre-Cambrian
sky
where there is no petrified shattered jaw-
bone shards
 contorting the irreconcilable silent
diaspora of light
where there is no immolated axial moonlight
 reflected in the steel tower's glassy
herringbone spine
yet to be here
is to be within
a transparent modality
of time passing
as dust falls through the clotted aperture's
 grizzled sinewy cavity

or in the brief tinder spark's curtailed
incendiary duration
or in the white cormorant's unflinching
obsidian eye
or in the besieged meadow's penurious orchid
chaff
or in the smoldering onyx archway of singed
contrition

7

To limit thought
to these walls
of reluctant tragedy
below the cirrus fishtail's wake
where the wounded plasticized asp
coils at the fetid river's sebaceous edge
where the gardens of foxglove and blessed
thistle
thread their ornamental hieroglyphics
through the fingertip mind of mercenary elves
where the hummingbird moths exist

as a prescient entangling beatitude
in these telluric fields of atomic ghosts
where the granular surficial eyes adjust
to the saffron lace curtain
blowing through the grated jalousie window
frames
where ethereal daylight brings the gnomon's
shadow
closer to the driftwood ash of mortality's
loss

8

A world exists
below the cold celestial firmament
a world where black cygnets
float through a visceral starless geometric
void
a world where ethereal dust beings
devolve within in a tarnished reliquary of
steel
a world where quantum tongued sanctuaries

hold the deathless oracle's transcendent
utterance
a world where conception is an entangled atom
projecting light into the jeweled archetypal
womb
a world where withering hedgerows
bloom in the winter shade of asphalt doorways
a world where the burning granite cenotaph
speaks to atrocities hidden beneath a frozen
ocean's edge
a world where wasting fleshly vessels
enter into infinity's clouded chimeric fray

9 *for Mary*

*...for this is beauty
the saffron-veined moth
encircling the vernal fray
at dawn
the crystalline torch
splintered*

*through the glandular forest's weighted
boughs
and to ask if here
the sculptured garden's onyx shade
flows through the fathomless ocean's aqueous
eye
or if the scourge of winter's night
leaves its progeny
to breed
in the thawing ravine's fertile womb
for it is the grating weight of silence
that speaks here of peace
a peace to calm
the infinite heart
lost in the wiles of penurious isolation
a peace to feed
the nascent orchid's shallow root
threading beneath the stony outcrop's
petrified husk
a peace to hear
the sparrow's trill
above the obliquely clattering visceral dawn
a peace to know*

the singularity's essence
hidden within the scattered fragments
of entropy and light

10

The once told posthumous world of dreams
 gesticulating through
 the gauzy ontological abstractions
a world of
 colonnades and atomized ramparts
 hiding the plaintive weight of muted
shadows
 within a glazed anodized chelated light
a world of
 mitochondrial landscaped gardens
 veiled with terminal irises
 and melting troglodytic
cretaceous gnomes
a world of
 despondent Bayreuth maidens

languishing in patriarchal matchstick
caverns

hasped to a dying torchlight's
crepuscular glow
it is here she speaks
from the bedside of many sorrows
where a night air's billowing transcendence
embraces the secular privation of her
intimate void
where her castellated archetypal id
lingers on the furrowed grass of stony
pathway rills
where her pleas to eternal verity's loss
retracts through a celestially blemished
anesthetized fate

11

It is easier to ascertain
a mortality
brought on by burgeoning vernal wounds
or the raking astringencies

in seasonal cycles of retribution
it is easier to ascertain
a mortality
observing the tenuous evolution
of a molecular landscape
hibernating within the celestial eye
it is easier to ascertain
a mortality
in questioning why the ligneous
sermonizing hymns
praise the unnamable
deities existing within a grain of sand
it is easier to ascertain
a mortality
when the piercing tundra gale ices over
the mucous thickened orchid's bloom
it is easier to ascertain
a mortality
while seeing through the night-glazed
lattice doorway
an ephemeral stairwell's descending void
it is easier to ascertain
a mortality

beneath the transfiguring pestilential
undertow
while reasoning why the lamenting heart
returns to dust

12

To disengage this subliminal engine of
thought
as rocks grate on the soul's acrid rind
as the heretic's theological demarcating line
refines a view within
the occluded doorway's entwining frame
it is here in the Cro-Magnon lamplight wane
that estrangement becomes
a sea wrack of surmounting desire
where the transparent machine elves
speak through the northwest archway's
abstract larynx
where the megalith quantum structures
hold the ephemeral sediment of infinite decay
where the voiceless insentient stone gods

sublimate this fragile semblance of light
where visions are seen in the immortal
cathedral
as dust arisen from a humanity's
 creviced arthritic limbs
a humanity returning from the nature of
painted widows
 and ferrous stained tearing faces
a humanity emerging from a archetypal
celestial furrow
 dug for the loss of sanity's hasp
a humanity's mirage of the silver light-ships
 cleaving the molecular nebula's entropic
limb
a humanity walking the briny floor
 of a drowned transgressor's amniotic sea
a humanity inhaling
 the ceaseless breath of withered vines
flowing through the dry tongues of tarnished
keyholes
flowing
 from
 the

bleary
autumnal
garden's
tapering
flame

13

Blight of tonality's loss
inherent in the scar
entropy leaves
a wake in the tempest
further from here
the moored telluric vessels
become existential reflections
glossed over in finite light
further from here
an uncharted Cambrian ocean
falls through an asphalt sky's
gaping metal trough
where the inter-stellar molecular labyrinth

24

demarcates the tacit limits of spirit's
reach
where the insane oracle's vociferating tongue
silences the bloodless mourner's acrid
plea
where grieving light from a widow's heart
sieves across a threshold's
flesh and marrow dimensionality
where dreams of a muted nightingale's song
fall from the pillow-burrowed eyelid's
ash

14

To remember how
the hills devoured
the wind between
the eyelid's flutter
between the barbed wire stanchions
and the diseased ostrogoth's hermetical
purview
and in the stead of lions appearing in dreams

the fluted cobalt bones
 illuminating a gauzy crepuscular sky
or the jeweled bedecked chalice of many
sorrows
 bleeding into the immortal nebula's
transparent womb
and from the eroded precipice of blackened
night
 spineless lemmings
 crossed a limbless valley's hypnotic
breadth
 to suture holes in a Cartesian acuity
 to burn the onyx veils of
existential nullity
 covering the mute intoxicated
eyeless faces
yet soon the poison rooted obsidian swords
ascend through the buried mirror's vitreous
crust
and the clotted gauzy vagrant 's mind
 can comprehend
 the eternal sadness

piercing the hoary willow's
intestinal bark
and it is here
in the phosphorescent salience of empty rooms
 that archaic sands flow
 through the faceted glass reliquary
prescient loins
and a dissolving graven night retains
 a gibbous moon's corridor hue
and in the rancid garden of guttering waste
 the flaccid lotus blossom
 swims in the toxic ocean's ebbing
tide

15

Identity is within
the space of an atom's orbit
as a crow walks
on a frozen pond
the asteroid enters
the physicist's mind

for the purpose of veracity
the siege engines
are burnt into archetypal memory's skein
and pages appear as sunless alcoves
in caverns where fossilized deadwoods
are shadowed by a nuclear winter's uranium
ash
or here at the inland sea's Cambrian shore
the sallow glass-eyed trilobite of pale-zero
entropy
scouring the bleak somatic strand
 in a protean age of pavement fissures
and laterally bleating visceral diminishment
here there is talk of ancient blood
blood of stone cathedral spires
 crumbling to aqueous dust
blood of intransigent celestial light
 annihilated outside the strontium doorway
blood of the naked beast in thicketed woods
 diverting the eyes from unconscious
atonement
blood of the elusive muse returning

the poignant cycles of a nullified
reality's clasp
blood of mountains in an unframed landscape
fading into vaporous transparent threads
blood of palsied archaic limbs
shuttering in a boreal forest's etiolated
shade
blood of flowing molecular faces
entering a room of shattered glassine
sinuous light

16

Similarly there are bands of intangible
essence
singing threads which accrete
upon the plastic tongues of a sallow
nullity's pith
singing threads which form
the mountains in a night
vacillating upon the fulcrum of
tragedy's girth

singing threads in salient enigmatic wakes
breathing in the slow fugue of drifting
ocean dust
breathing in
the obdurate nuances of the nasturtium's
silken web
and a knowing that reality is
a past tense repeating
upon the saturated landscape of desert plains
or in the visible geometries of celestial
wind
or of the chrysalis
or the rose
or in a field of oleander
or light through the enlaced moth's wing
or the lacquered eyes inside
the atom's sinuous temple
the fibrous amoeba's crawling trajectory
or the ice which mutes
the sky at dawn

Yet
to
understand
contiguity
existing
as
autonomy
is within
a
grain
of
sand
is within
a
wolf's
blemished
hungering
spleen
is within
the
unveiled
asymmetries

of
vanquished
desert
gods
is within
the
burred
spine
of
fractal
glacial
worms
is within
the
scarred
songs
chained
to
the
mute
gesticulating
cranial
void

Light thickening through a doorway
as in a pantomime of Pleistocene mirrors
on a stage of where estranged faces
bleed into the silvered jungle dawn's relent
where bleary aberrations of the shackled
talon king
intoxicates the rusting anchorite's bleeting
spleen
where the grey cataracts of eyeless
misanthropes
drown in a burning amniotic celestial light
where dark moths enter the concrete window's
shadow
below a jeweled firmament's azure embryonic
nascence
where the venomous gutted driftwood worm
descends beneath a Cambrian ocean's
primordial spine
where the shipwreck-fated ascetic's mind

passes into the dead raven's jaundiced eye

19

A world within
the dialectical process of thought
as when the crow appeared
to plant shadows on corridor walls
and questions of a rose awoke
inside the languid sleep of winter's eye
this before the mind was
a castellated vassal of faith
and fog engulfed the archetypal id
ensconced behind
the blackened factory walls
it was here the voiceless ghost
spoke to the isolation of physical presence
spoke of the many colors
the spectrum hides
from corporeality's gouty eye
spoke of a world

34

where anthracite skies
line the sheath
of a dying king's prescient dream

20

It is a room
where emptiness precedes light
where the dim mirage is mutable distance
attaining a clarity
 in the crumbs of a derelict afternoon's
prosthetic void
further from here
the eroding blocks of limbless flesh
 fall alongside
 the silver-blooded leaves of snow
as the quantum desert threads of asphalt
pillars
 burn mountains through
 the intoxicated prelate's blackened
fate
it is said that here

a cellular fault-line creates a formative
stasis
in the theoretical postulations of unseeing
crowds
crowds gathered below surging celestial
shadows
shadows on a Pleistocene ocean's gelatinous
floor
and through the pains of dialectical heresy
bridges are seen
leading through a frozen yak-eaten tundra
waste
it is here in the endemic weight of corporeal
dross
that the bane of wisdom
paints its scabby faceless beatitude
on the flaccid sun-drenched rodent pasture
as the unframed apocalyptic landscape lies
ill-perceived
among
the
fragmented
steel

cathedral

worms

21

Speaks of possible decay
as at the margins of observation
or of a spiritual Archimedes
threading the jeweled mortal coil
or treads on a spiral stair
in a room that has no name
it has been asked
if light formed here
within this void
where the calloused ear can hear
voices within the chalky ethereal otherness
where a runic ancient alphabet
conceives itself in a grain of sand
where the atoms of plastic doll heads
fuse to the thought of God within the painted
iris
where the beaded crow eye scours

37

for the frozen rodent corpse
among the winter forest's thaw
or was it said
that here creation was left
within an unfinished tapestry
was left to wander through
the hydrogen atom's unstable valence
was left to interpenetrate
the gelatinous zygote's microscopic heart
was left to fathom
the fraying galaxy's turbulent spine
was left to fill
the unspoken of
isolation
bleeding from the widow's anguished heart

22

Clouds evacuate the faces
in a garden
where mirrors grow
the mutated isotopes

of an individuated autonomy
where the black arachnid sun
 swims in a plutonium sea's reticular
furrow
where the slowly dissolving glassine crows
 fall from a night sky's stony crevasse
where the orphic vigils
 inside metallic cathedrals
 answer the imploring pilgrims
 wandering beneath a blinded wind's
geomantic dross
yet before this
the willow's shadow
became a gilded ocean's isolative edge
and there were strangers
 remolding the formica busts
 of a collective humanity's cellular
breadth
and there were heirs
 to an eyeless unmaimed king
 probing the desiccated kelp bed
 to unearth a celestial treasure
 kept distant by a marauding alien hoard

and here to follow
 this contouring sorrow's disembodied tear
 to its pendulous fruition
 to its scything cyclical nature
 as decay fills the granite capillaries
 with a profane bardic sonnet's glottis-
speak
and the remedial fleas of an antediluvian
intelligence
 channel their eternal will
 into the cadmium atom's Paleozoic core
and where the asphalt limbs of annihilated
cities
 preen the likeliness of an untold
eternity
 reflected in a nascent-eyed meadow's dawn

23

Speak no more of loss
no more
this bleeding cusp of splintered sun

no more
this hermetic adagio's triadic chord
no more
this graveled vision's remedial impression
no more
this lilting pastiche of hegemonic
prevarication
no more
this sinuous asp devouring the oxen's
entrails
no more
this rapturous tongue of sorrow's dance
no more
this destitute pilgrim
 prostrated before the altar of greed
no more
these burning towers
 collapsing into desiccated river waste
no more
these enervated limbs
 embracing the impassioned heart's
smoldering pyre

What has been imagined
is set in stone
as what is written
in words by the sodden pen on burning
parchment
or the path of dried marrow in a glaciated
age
or breath beneath the frozen granite
cataract's drift
or the emanating aqueous voices that pass
through the amethyst's mirror's liquid heart
or the vanquished face of the bent prophet
supine in a desert meadow's shade
he has come here to question
 the distant nebula
 resurrected in the stone torso's
embryonic spine
he has come here to question
 the weighted grey heart

encased in the tenebrous god's leaden
chest
he has come here to question
the chained dogs of humanity's night
howling in a bleeding myth of apocalyptic
wastes
he has come here

25

He who is unnamed
is the rider of the pale steed
through fields of fleabane and thistledown
through the coagulated darkness that is
a formative element of an enigmatic otherness
here he envisions his fate as a past tense
blinded by the light of futile acquiesce
blinded by the hallucinated fire
in the granite god's bleeding eyes
blinded by the consumptive effluent
of the minotaur's pestilential breath
as in a temple where a votive candle

illumines the empty threadbare
high priest's vestments
here he has taken to hoarding
the intimate aspect of an autonomous
light
here his belief reproaches the venial
transgressions
piercing his immortal effigy of being
here weight of the displaced burning tundra
plain
bears on the marrow within his wormy
cranial shell
here he seeks to find consolation
in the shape of fleecy clouds
morphing in his clotted varicose
limbs
here he finds a terrestrial sleep
hovering above a non-descript noumenal
realm
and here his heart finds rest
in the posthumous thoughts of hyacinth
growing in the stone wall's hollow
shade

Fate continues
along its blemished edge
along a curving spiral stairway's
 asymmetrical descent
along the unwound contours
 shadowing the lace dragonfly wing
fate within
 a blinding sun's deathless marrow
fate within
 a helical blood's corporeal seed
fate within
 the wakes of a solitary ocean's
fathomless sleep
fate within
 the figment of a blizzard's unyielding
lament
fate
 weighted

by the anvil of unspoken
transgression
fate
burning
beneath the thrown bones of
promethean wrath

27

The void is
an unanswering entity
the word is
an internal equation
necessitating a solution
encoded within
the grey perturbations
adumbrated by being
as perception is
the indecisive aspect
to vision's loss
where outside there is
nothing

of stasis
of movement
of depth
within
an internal sea
nothing
in the ineffable
anchor-weighted straw belief
or the many words
binding the eyeless
stone-mirror's wraith
nothing
of presence
nothing
above a bridge
distantly in flames
nothing
above a precipice
where voices fade
voices without
the music of desolation
 writhing in attenuated cages of flesh

music without the distance to intangible
galaxies

weighing abstractly in the bicameral sky
distance without the faces of granite deities

looming as unseeing monuments to dust
distance to where clouds reflect

transience

through a moth's singed wing

in a sallow dawn's hazy glittered
light

28

Now a crow on the ledge
frozen eyes through granite arches
a stained wind through window grates
an arachnid's web across the nettle hedge
the isolation of a widow
a widow speaking within the blood
speaking of a primordial sea
a sea of foreshortened perspective
a sea formed within

the unwound helix
within the cloistered reptile veins
within the simian causality of sanity's loss
yet here speak of evolution
of nightingales at dawn
of fleshly millstones
cast against the current
of caverns in drifted neutrino dust
of eyeless vagrant sages
crossing the muted interior threshold
of rooted lesions in a madman's mind
growing through the prosthetic membrane
of the jagged asteroid's transmuting fate
returning through endless cycles
cycles
of death and decay
cycles
of swollen embryonic galaxies
cycles
of burning effigial firefly gods
gods hidden in the cellular amoeba's
desiccated womb
hidden

in the blooded straw dog of mercurial belief
hidden
in the primeval ocean's crystallizing marrow
hidden
and unconsumed
as clouds drift
at mid-day
a fog appears

29

He looks through
the closed window
he looks into
this sodden weight of hemorrhaging time
time in a cyclical geometry's transient
isolation
time within the ides of gravity's hasp
time forming
the onyx void of Pleistocene night
time forming
holes in the unblemished bituminous overcast

time forming a light refracted
upon an impermeable carapace
forming quantum waves
penetrating the eyes of sinewy forest raptors
penetrating the souls of satraps and
guttersnipes
penetrating the heart of entropy's epidermal
rind
here he sees himself
outside a predestined synergistic universe
a monad suspended in a prismatic colloidal
sea
a transmigrating primordial quantum element
an eviscerated id
dredging an unconscious archetypal abyss
an ancient isolated sage
wandering through an arachnid infested desert
waste

30

Threshold waves wash over

an ebbing corporeal strand
a catalyst to a moment's diminished attrition
a moment of hollow bones
 ingesting the briny evening air
a moment of isolated swords
 cutting through the rusted heart
the heart left
 to rot among dust and rafters
left among empty rooms
rooms where myths fall from bottomless wells
where the predacious wolf devours
 the grizzled hungered wraith of death
where three crows fly from a slate minaret
 eclipsing the celluloid hyacinth's
glittering evening hue
where collapsed thrones of time consume
 the stalking horse of decayed faith
where the pervading ether's quantum breath
 spills the begging stone deity's restive
blood
where indigent ghosts of anterior eons
 undulate within the topical frames of
benighted dust

Soon it becomes a question of coherence
a remembering of bridges through doorways
a thought to breach the sinewy membrane
a promethean flame in glandular cavities
or the wet eyes of fragile beauty
 tasked to vanish among a fall of autumn
leaves
it is here words do not exist
where quantum follicles feed
on hoary molecular resonance
where a gauzy semblance to blood
falls into vermillion fields at dawn
where a crow on a shifting branch enters
 an impenetrable wind of cyclical sleep
where death within the atom's core
 becomes the saturating bane of conscious
loss
yet to come through this
understanding of light

moving the sky
through a sifted celestial arachnid
lace
moving through an unstructured cognitive
citadel's
cloudy gelatinous psychosis
moving through a mute cellular memory's
reflection
existing as a viscous translucent ocean
within the genes

32

She questions the angular moon's waning
shadow
or at dusk in an orchid garden
the glare from the petrified worm fossils
or dust of archaic crumbling stone dolmens
hidden beneath the peripheral limbless
oak
it is here she dreams of glass lions
covered by humanity's pellucid tears

it is here she dreams
in unframed portraits of scarlet tanagers
lining the uranium corridor's glowing
wall

it is here she dreams
of the unseeing anchorite faces
hidden within scars of a grey day's
wane

it is here she dreams
of a deathless muse
rooting through an amethyst forest's
seaward edge

it is here she dreams
of clouds through open windows
where the runic nightingale
sings again of dawn's approach

33

And it is in the weighted philosophies of
obscuration

that omens enter a sallow waif's hazy grating
fate
a fate rooted in existential isolation
where the apocalyptic embers glow
in a room darkened by the spectral
cormorant's demise
yet see the slow closing aqueous eyelid
and a mitering Pleistocene sun
cast upon the sebaceous raven's wing
and the forged rusted iron foundation
supporting the steel latticework doorway
enter this cathartic wilderness
this verdant glandular dimensional void
this grey wooded chromatic realm
where a blanched inland sea
washes over the repentant sage's unmarked
grave
where the enervating tendon wind
entangles the tubular nettle hedge
and where the sky gods of absentia
feed the mythic dreams and fear
which desiccate and devour the numbed
deforested land

And at twilight
the eaves are jagged points in shadow
pooling the acidic rainfall's reflective
dross
soon depth comes to adumbrative eyes
eyes mired in caustic eschatological sand
eyes not seeing the exfoliating desert lily
drawing down the icy radiance of Orion's
sword
 its quantum light of prosthetic distance
 its glow that is the ghost
 appearing outside the alcove
window
the naked wraith of wonton centuries
the opaque diminutive fortress of castrated
verity
for this light many have died
many who share an obtuse myopic faith
a faith of stoic muted faces

passing into the jeweled throated abyss
passing into the presciently cyclical
bleeding sea
a sea flowing within the intoxicated king's
clotted veins
within the gaunt bloodless reed's desiccated
spleen
within the rooted spindly thistle-chaff
 writhing beneath the frozen stone-
garden's iron gate
where a shallow grave of perennial tumors
 breaches the glandular tower's intestinal
air

35

Follow this image to uncertainty's fruition ...
this garish abstract incendiary worm
lying within the weedy garden loam
this deboned torso's transparent eyelid
occluding the crescent star's eclipsing light
this blind defiled alleyway

winding in mottled curves
 against the steel palace wall
where a dead king's stained raiment
 casts a stigmatic effigy
 against a castellated backdrop
where a flight of crows
 mark the day's sagging blight
where a veiled womb's quantum amoeba
materializes in stratocumulus overcast
 or behind an abandoned temple's spire
 or in a glass room of three corner walls
 or in an elongated ocean's slate rooftop
glare
 or in the besotted eye's transfinite scar
 or in the dissolving flower's viscous
flame
 scraping the jaundiced pavement
marrow
 from the wounded coils of
celestial light

And
then
from
nothingness
glacial
hemispheres
calve
in
isolation
where
it
is
not
a
mirror
that
decides
identity
is
within
the
bulimic

hag's
nocturnal
supplication
or
within
the
eyes
of
the
unobservable
neutrino's
girth

37

No words exist
to fathom
the constructs of time
collapsing the atom
in a quantum sea's eye
or the primordial
bell-tower resonance

pulling the sutures
which bleed the flesh
where the cloistered hyssop root
materializes
 clinging to the skyscraper's disinterred
spine
where the wail of decimated rodent souls
 is smashed by the cosmic ion gate's
decent
where a singular mustard seed grows
 among the concave mountain's cleaving
briars
where the melting hoarfrost flows
 through the steely gutters of gunmetal
streets
where no words exist
to capture
the fragrance of orchids at dusk
or the sparrow's trill
outside the darkened window pane
or the weeds of passion
 flowering in the shadows
 of a arcing sun's

meditative glare
(no words exist)

38

And in this moment
impressions are prescient flowings
beyond the frames of diminutive ceilings
 with painted landscapes of doorways
 appearing above the concrete alley's
edge
where desiccated marrow waifs
 wander through existential cathedrals
 with cloudless night sky cynosures
 opening the fleshly eyes
 to the elephantine desert
gods
 and primitive noetic
theophanies
then to understand
 a late sun falling
 counter to a Dalian foci

as when seeing in a mirror
a terminal fog
an engorged identity
seduced by the blemishes
in a fleshly beauty
in a shuttered room
in the frozen silhouettes
of grey metal sills
or in a winter's corporeal parousia
an isolated world within
the dull thudding tongues
 of black sparrow gnomes
 perishing on the melted asphalt plain
of the dimly echoing anchorite muse
 soughing in the empty ante-chamber nave
in the emblazoned stigmata's akashic dust
 coiled in the dormant kundalini's womb
and in this an unknowing
an etheric grail on a sodden mantle
broken pieces of the glass lion's jaw
scalded meadows of plundered asteroid chaff
embryonic ion's mutated in an aphasic shell

the gnarly willow root's unsown intestinal
tapestry
cathedral spires lost in the crow's occluded
eye
and here there is presence
hear the singular voice
 clotting the pendulous syncretistic realm
hear the singular voice
 resonating within the incubational meated
void
hear the singular voice
 forming the leaden blooded molecular cask
hear the singular voice
 emanating from the flaccid ash worm's
amethyst veins

39

Speak then again of isolation
of anonymity's acetic waif
of an aging room's flaking rind

of daylight dredging a translucent ocean's
frozen depth
of thought patterns in plasticized membranes
of molecular wave-forms
 clogging the drifting elemental isotopes
of the anorexic banshee's hollow throated
wail
 echoing through a misanthropic forest's
cancerous gall
of lateral blizzard winds
 devouring the ailing widow's terminal
mite
of heretical flagellating eschatologists
 lapsing
 into
 a
 caustically
 anesthetizing
 beatific
 euphoria
of lobotomized city streets
 where toxic gaslight fumes
 choke

the
blinded
mitered
eye
where crumbs of shaved codfish scales
fall
from
the
mendicant
friar's
weighted
brow
where the black arachnid's silken tapestry
collects the smoky marrow
belching from the medieval
crematorium's stack
where Paleolithic asteroids
enter into a gauzy stratospheric web
as visions of apocalyptic
philosophers
grow within a weedy burred
cognitive void

speak then to this cumulative psychotic
 wilderness
 to this spatially disfiguring hegemonic
 effigy
 to this crumbling Minoan plaster-faced deity
 to this immolated atom's
 transcendently embalmed valence
 speak then to where death is
 within
 the disfiguring night's firmamental
 spine
 within
 the faceless queen's keening stairwell's
 din
 within
 the shadowed gallows' tree exsanguinated
 roots

40

Thence to create
distance from this

mindful of a grist mill's sinewy ceiling
clouds
mindful of where faces collapse
 into mirrored patterns of augurial dust
mindful of the dissolving crystalline threads
 echoing down sutured hallways of fleshly
regression
mindful of the penurious minions who sleep
 beneath the bony dog's rabid throne
mindful of the scabrous icy briars
 falling into the smoldering talus pyre
mindful of the desiccated canal bed
 bifurcating into the weedy nettle chaff
and to see no point to this
no point to antediluvian caverns
 receding into a parting hypnogogic sea
no point to voided apparitional doorways
 materializing in glass corridor membrane
walls
no point of an eschatologist's gnostic dawn
 pulsing through the liquid crystal's
quantum heart

no point of seeing the sodden paper cathedral
ruins

illuminated by the vermillion limbs of
corporeal sun

41

To follow to fruition
what is unmapped
in the magnitude of isolation
where ends are the means

that remain
asleep within the atom's abiotic
evolution

perhaps it is
the disinterred prelate's tongue
which speaks from the salient uranium
cloud

drifting above the garden of muted
creeds

and the stripped-mined
mountain's

scarlet precipice
perhaps it is
the wailing nymph of emerald seas
which hunt the vagrant worms
burrowing through the darkened
asteroid's denatured face
perhaps it is
a mythic opera where skylark kings
ascend deboned venison thrones
and mutant desires of the
unwashed abbess
pass into the scurvy
prophet's grizzled loins
perhaps it is
the afterbirth of sunlight's glandular
shadow
entering into the absinth drinker's
splintered vision
perhaps it is
a shackled autonomy's leprous predation
existing as empty rusted cages of
flesh

...And it follows
that the intimate spectrum is
 a backlit romantic mutation
 infiltrated by eons of heartless
sorrows
 and days bereaving the cloudless
landscape ruin
yet still the sea is internal as dust
 is within an afterbirth's venomous decay
and absence appears as swelling wakes
 glittering on the precipice
 of a burning chasmic sky
yet what is hasped to this
stark consumptive debasement
what is structure beyond the ephemeral
what is unspoken in the slotted cardboard
faith
 questioning the stilted dogmatic
labyrinthine mosaic

or what of traces left by a pale horse
eschatology

 quavering beneath an octogenarian's
leaden breath

or what of the piecemeal perceptual illusions
 left by the ill-divined mystic vagrant's
guttural slaw

consider these clangorous dissonant octaves
echoing through the scythed gardens of inter-
stellar ash

echoing in the metal vestiges

 of root rot and wormwood blight
echoing in the occultation of effigial
mirrors

 marred by a flaccid autonomy's liminal
presence

43

And here to feel an ineffable driving rain
falling within

the concrete archway's looming shadow's
gait
falling within
the asphalt meadow's curving labyrinthine
fray
falling within
the larval veins of moth-eaten cranial
limbs
falling through
a dismembered nebula's shrouded aqueous
patina
falling and drowning
the blooded irises
clinging to the marble wall's
crumbling fibers
and it is said that here
the reclusive muse
enters into the heretical ascetic's
cryptic delusion
and it is said that here
the crystalline transcendent ax
cleaves the bleeding Neanderthal's
paper skull

and it is said that here
the ethereal cosmic watchers
shroud the embryonic atom
in cyclonic saffron valence-mist
and it is said that here
the veiled penitent's solemn incantations
set ablaze the sodden meadows of
sawdust and ash
and it is said that here
a whetted alabaster moonlight
falls within the dying anchorite's
martyred heart

44

Where is the rigidity of sight
among these transient geometric projections
as there is little the flesh seeks
that can be absorbed
within this subjugation of blood
to diaphanous transcendent misgivings

as it is within the quantum hemispheric
symmetries
to decide
the depth of celestial illumination
penetrating the rind of
subconscious obscuration
insofar as the crow perceives itself
as an entity within
a field of torn orchids clouded in
tacit lament
or in the haze of fading half-light
bleeding through the stained glass
cathedral transom
or in the inaudible grace notes
of a glittering ethereal passion's
remorse
or in the tortured windblown mallows
growing through the ruptured drossy bones
of painted statuary at desecrated
graves

There are embryonic voids
which grow within
the collapsed frozen
hemispheres of dawn
as the irreversible
aspects of sunlight
play upon the waking mind
as the resinous hyaline entities
hunger to penetrate
the sodden carapace of hypostatic sleep
as in a landscape where sutured dreams
bleed into a hazy existential fray
and where a field of black orchids
float above a buried king's
 shallow ocean grave
and where from a room of glass corridors
a viscous milky corporeality
 impregnates the atom's porous rind
and where the fibrous sparrow heart
passes through the unseen dimensional gate
where the distance from faith's visceral
estrangement

leaves the heart to root
among an abandoned garden's ossified
weeds

46

The sublimity death finds waiting
in a transcendent prescience
waiting
as time passes
thorough the framed still-life's
flaking veneer
waiting
as the blind oracle
chants of the sentient expanse of
carnal apostasy
waiting
as the skeletal garden remains
a corpse buried beneath the winter's
fallen snow
waiting

as a archetypal wolf bends its onyx
spine
to the waxing moon's bilious
silhouette
waiting
as looming mountains set a perspective
of plastic eyes inside the ivy vine
waiting
as the deforested asphalt edge
climbs the retinal chasm's
molecular wall
waiting
as imperceptible angelic intervention
enters into a morning sun's
singeing contrition

47

The eye is
as evening is
forming
the spheres of crystalline

within this wordless contemplation
autonomy is enclosed
beneath its gauzy cellophane shroud
a leafless oak blooms
in a grey winter forest's depth
and through the hollow mirror's window
the fractured enigmatic aspects of flesh
a feral nature of negating presence
refusing to see into another world
the hidden organism enervated by obscurity
the unbalancing karmic equation of loss
the burred vernal molecule of death
the shadow of the asphalt pillar's
annihilation of light

48

A definition of physicality
withheld from the moment
as a rose is growing
in the heather
or diaphanous fog

against a rock wall
or silence as breath
preceding
the thought of the embryo
embedded in the womb
of time passing
through the dormant heart
a beating unaware
of its presence
or in a field of briars
the unnoticed ocean
as quiescent as death receding
through inarticulate quantum realms

49

To conceive
a granite archway
as a particle of dust
or the inert mountain
as the needle's eye
or the cavern of solitude

surrounding an onyx expanse
and what of the abraded face
reflecting the mitered flow of ebbing tides
or the palliative incipience
of a celestial siren's plaintive wail
what of the transfigured monolith
manifesting as a physicality's benighted
decay
or the ranting mystic's arcane dialectic
spreading its roots beneath the asphalt's
desert plain
and still the clouded irony
inside the vegetative embryo's cognitive
breath
still the salient intangible constellation
shining in the pinpoint distillation of
reality's eye

50 *for Emi*

*She explains
the circle of life*

*there are azalea blossoms
there are burnished driftwood scraps
there are clouds unnoticed
 reflecting on the pond
a swallowtail on the lilac hedge
a splintered shaft of sun at noon
she explains
the circle of life
and a day has passed
beneath her fingertips
a day of a fading sky's
 scarlet cirrus trace
a day of an unframed tapestry's
 silken amber lace
a day which brings
the dreams of many worlds
 appearing beneath the closing
 onyx eyelid of night
a day which brings
the deep knowing beauty
 flowing from her heart's
 ethereal reliquary of light*

Light off a precipice
at dawn
the gabled house is in shadow
here there is no prescience
gleaned from hermetic solitary philosophies
no prescience on pages of catacomb dust
 masking the traces of an unspoken
apocalypse
and it is here in a windowed corridor
 that death pulses through the prosthetic
veins
and mirrors are seen
 as the sulfuric keyhole's unopened eye
and it is here one must search
 the ameliorative terrain of sedimentary
lament
 hidden
 within
 the
 buried

logos
of
desiccated
marrow
and it is here one must search
for the murmuring plainchant's wounded
plea
echoing
through
the
ancient
stone
forest's
emasculated
ruin
and it is here one must search
for the empty inward quiescent tear
reflected
through
the
marbled
archway's
scarlet

hue
and it is here that one must come
come without thought
thought to posses
this austere penitent intangibility
or to possess
these abstract eschatological leavings
breathing in a night of iron roses
blooming on sodden driftwood
plains
and one must search the conceptual image
of another life-form's atomized beatitude
shattered
in
a
glass
ocean's
metaphysical
depth

The
sun
diminishes
the
rock
wall
facing
east
a
cathedral
melts
in
the
orchid's
shadow
a
distortion
of
thunder
rupturing
tonality's
core

It is the topical notion
of time passing through
the slotted gable windows
it is before
the intercessory realization
of observation's flaw
or the precedent
for what follows
the wake of shadows
from the alcove of sleep
it is unlike
the atom's ineludible core
withdrawing from the calloused eye
it is unlike
the immortal karmic tinder pyre
burning in the nameless waif's atrophied
heart
it is unlike
the isolation of predacious corporeality
starved for the solace of mute clotted gods

it is unlike
celestial light from the scarlet -rimmed
nebula
falling into an ancient sea's receding eye

54

The flower is itself
a meaning to deny
at the intersection
of dimensional surfaces
or the unrequited boundary
of neutrality's sleep
where the residual flame
dies
within the mind's colluded eye
where the senses distinguish
vacillations of time
 as an illusion entering
 the chartreuse cathedral's
 symmetrical doorway
or of the liquid viol's

splintering echo
 vanishing through
 the boron atom's reticular skein
and to ask
what is *this* moment
but an indistinguishable otherness
 present in the tumescent faces
 of drowned autonomy
and what of the voided presence
 emanating from the quantum star's
 dead horizon's rim
what of the mythic unknowable
 embryonic heart
 clinging to the dust of providential
fragility
what of the still dissolving facets
 which undergird
 an entropic geometry's fetid brackish
drift
or the rusted fragments
 of silken veiled machinery
 possessing the hunted fleshly
interior beast

Similarly the light fades
as in the shadow
of a madman's face
on the boulevard
of asphalt trees
and crepe paper framed doorways
and how in a day
without rain
the plastic statuary
is melting
beneath a winter sun
and the pallid moon
in an oracle's dream
appears to bury itself
in the blood of
the perennial transgressor's veins
it is as if an enervated landscape
dons the semblance of stone
in a purgatory of dust

and the glazed words
of the sainted vagrant
form the strata
of a silken unraveled absurdity's dross

56

It is a feigning artificial beatitude
which enters the rigid ascetic's hollowed
bones
it is a castrated dimensionality of
intoxicated lust
it is spatial movement
 through an uncharted interior's
 dark viscous wilderness
it is within the ashen pallor of another's
muted desire
it is the diaphanous geometry of desiccated
veins
 and bloodless extremities in futile grasp
it is in the marrow of apocalyptic virtues

purging light from the unseeing spine of
fate
it is the vehicle of celestial abstraction
ceding its terrestrial presence
to the leafless tree's decaying peace
and it is in the steel precipice
of dawn's embolismic nadir
and the black silhouetted archetypal crow
sunken in a frozen ocean's turbid sleep

57

The internal structure
suffered from fatigue
as a crow perched
in the shadowed I-beam's rusted girth
and inside the brooding corridors
the hungering depth of monolith rage
filtered through
the whitewash plaster wall's
cavernous void

and it was the illegible fate of anguished
voices
which pierced the scalloped eggshell ceiling
tiles
as if in a silent desert's inebriated
viscosity
where the unsired metal god
 scraped the dross from a sleeping
 civilization's prostrated brow
and where the black orchid bloomed
 in the oblique archway's north facing
shade
and where eyes closed
the book of understanding
and the lily's stamen strained
to bear the weight of humanity's
collective unconscious loss

58

A fog tapers
down the blackened corridor

infusing the twisted roots
of what is said to be
misunderstood
of what is said to be
the face of death
staring from the palace window
and here it is said
there are complications
to withstand
the immediacy of the moment
as in a clock's resolving passive movement
or the ghosted anorexic silhouettes
dissolving within the shattered mirror's
frame
and what of the scarlet-veined garden
awash with the teal irises and blooded
foxglove blooms
and the nightingale path of withered briars
threaded through the serpentine conjugation
of breath
and what of the blinded earthworm's eyeless
progeny

burrowing through an inner world's
terrestrial rind
or the unobserved ocean's cresting surge
breaching the stone wall's fragmented spine

59

To oracle portends
a tyrannical reign of plastic eyeless kings
in an age when the rusted flaking dross
falls
silently
on
the
unabsolved
tongues
of
virgin
snow
when the penitent monks
behold the crystalline structure which
embodies

the massless neutrino's diaphanous
breath
when the geometries of an unspoken desire's
lament
form
a
mythical
bridge
to
the
impasse
of
unrequited
faith
when the bleeding pen of incendiary rage
freezes
beneath the hermetic poet's calloused
hand
when there is no knowledge left to glean
from
the
sage
entangled

within
the
skein
of

infinity's
zero
when the nomadic desert harbinger
carries the weight of ten thousand suns
through the burning mountain's
embryonic womb
when the steel bell tower's clangorous
dissonance
strips
the
inner
harmony
from
the
atom's
eternal
hymn

He dreams he sees within
a phenomenology of mirrors
the mute specter of autonomy's loss
withdrawing
 into a flaccid extrasensory celestial
realm
he dreams there are no concrete bulwarks
 to keep at bay
 the fleshly throbbing martyred
beasts
he dreams there is no repose
 in the shadowy stone dolmens
drowning in a sunlit vein's sebaceous waste
he dreams of what has been forgotten
 in the tapered sentient flame of
earthworm blood
or in the black laced night-moth's wing
 which fades in the dust of an evening's
breathless sky

or in the dreamless end of measured
days
 where burning ragwort light
 devours the fog over the shuttered
eyelids of sleep

61

What is unacknowledged
is this sea of belief
where the white stone goddess
 speaks of the wounded inarticulate beast
 outside the grasp of a carbon-based
 mortality's unseeing eye
where the cave dwelling desert monks
 quell their fleshly desire
 in sunless fields of moldered heather
chaff
where the dross of asymmetrical molecular
labyrinths
 overlay the synthetic celestial geometric
void

to prevent the hungered cadaverous
wolf
from entering the bones
of the sleeping madman's
dream
yet what is needed is
indistinct and fleeting
as in the sired belief
of pavement fissure deities
or the topographic anomalies
hidden beneath
a smoldering ash cloud residue
what is needed is within
the dead leaf's drifting trajectory
covering the eyes
of the disenchanted widow's grieving
heart
what is needed is
not the unspeaking expanse of sky
wherein blank arid faces
stare through their caustic emptiness
into a nocturnal beatitude's
impervious myth

62

As in the shadow
of the flowering nettle hedge
the night is perpetual
as beauty is unerring
as is the elegance
of beating onyx wings
within the golden spun arachnid silk
it is here to be absorbed
to be breathed through
to form the veil to pierce
the orchid's unsullied amniotic essence

63

To infer space
as existing
beyond the firmament
that is

within the eye
or the hovering glass spheres
 vibrating down the halls
 and corridors of the chambered void
some speak of oceans here
speak of depth
speak of death
or how the lily blossoms
without the madman's will
without the doorway of apprehension
 opening incrementally
 to what is contemplated to be
 these bloated geometric
projections
and what of their tactile manifestations
 fitting the frames
 the eye decides
or the aspects of night
 with radiant blizzards
 on an iron bridge
or what is to be believed is
not the crows
 evacuating the burning spire

not the blue orchids
 painted in the dead man's hand
not the stone dolmen boundary
 tracing a vague insentient
 order to existence
not the muted sparrow's eye
 seeing into the cracked asphalt heaves
 a strained eminence
 wherein nature abides

64

The corner is an empty room
it is filled with the potentiality
 of a limbless god
it is filled with a presence
 which denies itself
 a physical manifestation
 of being
it is similar to the flower
 fusing itself
 to the thought of its name

or the boat entangled within
 an undefined ocean's asymmetrical frame
it is here a wind penetrates
the sodden eyelid's boundary of sleep
penetrates an autonomous presence
 removed from the shattered mirror's
infective glare
penetrates the static aggregates
 of an indecipherable ontology's castrated
god
it is then one must understand
 the hidden workings
 of a predacious nature's celestial
machinery
to understand the enveloping molecular
artifice
 which keeps the blood
 coursing through
 the plasma membrane's beating
heart
which keeps the rose
 adrift in a dreamless ocean's tacit
lament

which keep the flesh of language
 a malleable geometry
 infusing the tongue's mute embryonic
cells
which keeps the stars
 a distant elixir
 to dispel the solitary shadows
 clinging to the unopened eye's
gauzy shroud

65

Inside the orchid's
impenetrable geometry
a threadbare meadow
embraces singularity's essence
and the rutted scarlet-limbed dawn
thunders through
the glass keyhole's sleeping eye
and keening of the newly fledged sparrow hawk
covers the mountain laurels
in a dripping paeon's opulent hue

and come to this thought
when night has removed
its rippling transgressive onyx pastiche
and the lattice shadows of wasted desert
light
cover the staring plaintive face
at a sebaceous ocean's burning shore
and where the fractal tide of immortality's
wake
enters the bleeding dreams of humanity's
lament

66

It is a momentary intimate disfigurement
it is where latitudes of absence
relay eons of death
 filtered through
 the opaque mirror's
 mitered eye
it is a world
 where eternal light

bleeds through plasma-ash chrysalis
it is a world
where equivocality in rotted stone
speaks to dementia's fading cyclonic
fury
it is a world
where to decipher this transliterated
debris
is to understand
the proselytizing hag's demurred
chant
portending the day when stalemate and
blindness
evolve within the gutted archetypal
id
is to understand
the grieving anchorite's cloistered
reality's spleen
where there can be no culling of breath
among the dead leaf's sentient clatter
within its windblown asphalt cage
is to understand
the nameless grizzled desolation of anger

burrowing its iron tongue
in the vortical fields of primitive
debris
is to understand
the transiently forged molecular bridges
suspended above a celestial tributary's
cascading wake

67

What is not lost
to this hand
writing obscurities
in an ocean of repose
is the indecipherable voice
diaphanous as white cloud-smoke
across the marble threshold
as the resurrected
haunts of forgetting
a faceless mirror's
death-head trajectory
as the astral boundary

breaching
this splintered dialectic of silence
and to conclude here
autonomy is without permanence
a susurrations of presence
in a reedy desert of undivined hours
in the wing beats of the white moth
skirting the frayed sentient equation of zero
in the vague shades of scarlet and grey
lining the arachnid's entrails wall
in the crenulated weighty bleed of
consciousness
through the entangled atom's amorphous core

68

As in the nature of the atom
time exists
 as an undefined ocean
 passing through the needle's eye
here some speak of death
 as entering the glass doorway

of internal isolation
or passive facets of shattered light
emerging from an undefined singularity's
void
yet blood remains within
the moment of conception
the moment of the seemingly
insignificant
life force of a sparrow
extinguished
or the relevance
of the moth in-flight
its crystalline veined wings
to span the great blinded
sphere of night

69

The room is large
and without thought of itself
as those who enter are
effigial reflections

spurned by their unconscious id
and in a corner the unopened
spineless book of sonnets
the jagged window's driftwood frame
and a vision
a vision through the hollow ovum's malleable
bones
a vision in a womb of sedimentary lingering
and deep misgivings to perdition's loss
elsewhere there is conjecture
conjecture of a reality
a reality
of unseen granite arches
crumbling into feldspar meadow glens
a reality (that is elsewhere)
unlike the presence of light
splintering glass faces in a desert of ice
a reality
that is commingled
with the internal aspects of sentient quantum
dust

And there exists
the unfathomable aspects
 hidden deep within
 the crow's impermeable eye
and there exists
a salient amber glow
 bleeding from
 the stony precipice of dawn
and there exists
 the pain on embryonic faces
 torn from the fleshly celestial womb
and there exists
the apocalyptic zealots
 draining the marrow
 from the novitiate's hollow bones
and there exists
 the deeply rooted blessed thistle hedge
 growing beneath the pauper's shallow
grave
and here
 it is not a question

to balance
the ponderous weight
wherein grief sews its fate
in the castrated fields
of humanity's loss
and here
it is not to question
the vague sallow winter hue
dissolving the rust encrusted
maternal veins
and here
it is not the earth which answers
the hungered wolf
waiting at the boundary
of a blackened vernal wood
and here
it is not a question
which waits unanswered
in the drifted sands of eons lost
or in the mute placation
to nameless gods
kept in the castellated citadel
of immutable faith

71

The
rain
falls
without
recourse
to
distinction
left
by
a
sun's
evacuated
presence
and
along
the
glass
wall
an

altered
semblance
of
a
presence
denied
a
clotted
memory's
facets
of
autonomy
which
flows
against
the
gnomon-shadowed
porcelain
grain
which
flows
through
the

severed
fragment
of
a
philosopher's
dream
which
flows
within
the
ferrous
amoeba's
thistle-limbed
vein

72

Invisible to the eye
a wind borne by sentience
at a pond's edge
a swan's austere complexity
yet to the eye

a chain of occurrences
wherein simplicity lacks description
as to question why
the spontaneous apparitions
remain in calcified ante-light
why
 the screaming entrails
 of a devolving memory
 drown in a burning primitive sea
why
 an archetypal shadow lore's
 undivined consciousness
 clings to the impaled helical
strand
why
 a deduction of a conflagration's nature
 forms a deforested asphalt plain's
palatial ruin
why
 the symmetries of the nightingale's song
 echoing through the voided white
stone's heart
why

this allegiance to a hypnotic dissonance
 sounding through
 a gauzy theology's threadbare
tongue

73

Turn from here
where decisions rest
 in the negating aspect
 of cellular structure
turn from
 a rusted cadaverous grail beatitude
 of the splintered iron fetus limbs
 melting into a tacit autumn's
insecticidal womb
here there are many
who portray their lives
 in bleary eschatological painterly scrim
many who root their hearts
 in a shadowy nadir's anvil of death
many who assume

the lattice doorway is drawn in sand
to keep the specter of isolation
scouring blindly at the meadow's
gated fray
many who live
in the embattled palace of prevaricating
dreams
placating the diaphanous beast
which gorges itself
at the black dog's
subconscious trough
many who fear the embolismic omens
floating in the bleeding statuary's
alabaster veins
many who resolve their lives
among the smoldering ashes of a
theodicean ruin

74

A crow is unlike
a blind amoeba

seething through
 a viscous amniotic sea
unlike a gaunt sun
 illuminating a beleaguered horizon's
 calloused dawn
unlike a rotted iron fence post
 hidden in the willow fields
 where hyacinth and ivy creep
unlike a visionary hill of skulls
 haunting the anchorite's
 grey dreams of watered stone
unlike the breadthless view
 the mind conceives
 to penetrate
 an unseeable world's quantum eye

75

Later the edge is perceived
in a thinned evanescent thread
from which hangs
 the effigial gods

of straw and chaff
bleeding through a celestial
orifice
at this moment
landscape is loss
is isolated
within a cathedral doorway
is footfall
in a desert's encroaching madness
is where corridors are
porous gesticulating
internal obstacles
feeding belief
it is where
the road ends
in a narrow dissertation
of isolated space
it is where
he is unsure
if thought precedes
the apprehension of its image
or if the other
in the equation

is a face once seen
 embedded
 in the asphalt of temporal
memory
it is where
 there can be
 no resolution
 to the negating
 divination of rattling omens
it is where
 there can be
 no pyre to quell
 the archetypal serpent's
 predacious reptilian will

76

Death
follows
without
a
thought

of
mirrors
resurrecting
mortality's
grey
carnal
worm
inside
the
ageless
king's
blinded
eye

77

There is no shape
to define this beauty
 existing outside
 the blurry filaments
 of asymmetrical illumination
and there is no cracked glass doorway

named desire
 through which
 the nascent eye can perceive
 the airy swallowtail's
perambulating drift
and there is no opaque glittery onyx sphere
 to descend and cloak
 the isolated night's
 diaphanous structure of zero
yet it is here the atom exists
 as an unmined entity
 seething through the celestial
keyhole
and the jagged petulant bane of consciousness
 fills the blooded veins
 with consuming incendiary light
and still this shape
 defies its structure
 as in an amorphous sleep's
 labyrinthine trajectory
 following the hooded sparrow
hawk

through the terminally
blind oracle's eye
following the gaunt vulture's predacious
stare
 into unmaimed rooms
 where transparent walls
 betray the opaque nature
 in the depths of creation's
womb

78

Sand falls from the arachnid's eyelid
sand within the ascetic's eschatological
mythology
sand decomposing amid fleshly perspectives
sand in a room where the blind oracle speaks
to interpret a gelatinous light
falling through a stained glass cathedral
window
to interpret a dead ocean's subtle flowing
through the reamed corridors of fitful sleep

to interpret the mendacious hag's calloused
dream
pierced by the gauzy tongue of Orion's sword

79

Bled light
through reticular web
thus the occurrence
waxing within isolation
thus the blemished
scales of being
further from the matrix
of what is
singularity
of what is
observation
of what is
the atom
interpenetrating
the eloquent angelic winds of silk
of what is

the arabesques of quantum flesh
drawn through cognitive acquiescence
of what is
a gaping celestial tapestry's maw
cleaving the gray corporeal hemispheres
of what is
a palace of transient arthritic refuge
hidden in the fleshly cells of eternity's
womb

80

In a room of many walls
the transient
anvil of isolation
the onyx tendrils of ice
the disinterred glare
down obsidian corridors
the hands of a wooden clock
detached lost
in scraps of parchment
to find the weight of intimate expression

in the room of predation's darkness
the room
 of vernal quantum decay
the room
 of ion and neutrino oceans
the room
 of scouring nebula vision
vision
 through the iron amoeba's cadmium eye
vision
 through the white moth's silken
transparent wing
vision
 of the whitewashed ontology's tapestry
threads
vision
 of passion's burning cavernous womb
vision
 of creeping wisteria's serpentine roots
roots
 buried in a fallen snow
roots
 from a music's blooded jade precipice

roots

of a north facing wall's rusted hinge

roots

of the mute viol's celestial dissonance
flowing through the aqueous keyhole's gash

81

The intricate facets
of death's immeasurability
like curvatures of time
passing through the static
fragments of a season's embrace
like fossilized sperm
from an extinct progenitor's quantum womb
like a vicarious landscape
existing as a scalar atom's platonic core
speak then here to this imperfection
of seeing
movement through the crystalline doorway
or a face to define
malleability in the irrational

aspects of sedimentary presence
speak then to what is written
as a corporeal topology
embodying the naked limbs
and nascent sentience
of breath and blood
of the visceral chalice flame
rooting through the fleshly reliquary's
nocturnal dream

82

Onyx sleep
of moth wings
by starlight
glittering accretions
in the celestial void
to call forth
the transcendent muse
drawn through
 the labyrinthine helical veins
drawn through

the worm of corporeal perdition
drawn through
the rooted loins in turbid soil
through this woven sylvan wilderness
through this pastoral tapestry's verdant maw
through these unopened azure eyes
floating on the rarefied tide's ebbing
wake
where the colic windblown tempest
bends the blooming veronica's spine
where the hyaline threads of dawn's
approach
singes the saffron meadow's placid
edge

83

To
differentiate
a
sentience
in

formation
or
a
breath
lost
between
the
boundaries
of
physicality's
bleed
it
is
here
a
torso
imagines
death
as
a
spatial
negating
eclipse

of
time
imagines
a
distillated
chemical
fog
draping
an
ossified
meadow's
asphalt
fray
imagines
the
celestial
wakes
of
oceanic
anonymity
turning
the
grey

metallic
eyelid
to
dust

84

Speak of the hours
mottled by clouds
and sun
through the stained glass
or a candle
luminous by eventide
at the door
she speaks of light
of the unchanging
of the position of stars
of the winter ecliptic's arc
of waning angles
of shadows
through the needle's eye
of doorways into another

room of isolated stairwells
room of symbiotic perceptions
room of the internal defined
between the motes of settled dust
wherein the eye resides
wherein individuality exists
apart from the mute
evolution of oceans
apart from the words
which crystallize within
this empty slice of space
this clouded alcove window's glare
this crow upon a metallic temple spire
this eye tracing this splintered fall of
light
tracing this angular dissonance
tracing this concrete wind
receding through trees
tracing the fraying ruptured iron eye
through the smoke of dawn's expanse

For want of illumination
death burrows steel talons
 into a philosophic rhetoric's fleshly
limbs
for want of a sage's hoary dementia
crows vanish
 in a field of ivy eyelid chaff
crows in the machine-burnished
 rust of evening's dawn
crows unlike the black dog
 inhabiting a mutated skeletal dreamscape
crows alighting the steel I-beam's
 shadowy angular grey-sky's embrace
crows on the gallows tree
 of an archetypal ontological illusion
crows
 in
 isolated
 meditative
 cloister
 mazes
crows

of
the
black
primordial
amoeba's
ooze
crows
embedded
in
the
jagged
deboned
torso's
rind
crows
as
omens
foretelling
of
the
mangled
graven
images

bleeding

in

a

scarlet

horizon's

descent

of

night

crows

reflecting

the

ageless

intoxicated

eidolon

of

death's

embrace

Doorways within dust

hidden from the slithering mind's
cloistered ocular fray

hidden from

a faceted migratory sun's
penetrating cutlass of steel

hidden from

an entropic blizzard's
festering mortal wound

hidden from

the vermillion-stained firmament's
amniotic exfoliating overcast

hidden from

tongueless denying faces
silent behind the melted iron window

grates

faces seeking

an identity

in a mirror's blighted abscess of

absentia

faces seeking
 an identity
 in an attenuated incarnation's
fomenting entropy
faces seeking
 an identity
 in a bilious desert god's rusted
talon's hasp
faces seeking
 an identity
 in a seraphic messenger's liquefied
spine of fate
faces seeking
 an identity
 in a stone garden of bloodless
atonement
faces seeking
 an identity
 in light consumed by the spectral
doorway's veil

Do the plastic doll's eyes perceive
an entangled sentience
 existing within the precarious
 monadic entity
 formed in a celestial sea's
holographic eye
do they understand
 the unblemished bull's spilled blood
 atoning for the shadowy rank wounds
 of transgression's mired god
do they perceive
 a swan's feather's drift
 in a black stygian pond of fate
 where the life-force of dying
leaves
 enters a stony heart
 choked by weeds
 in the garden of
molecular corporeal decay
do they perceive
 there is no answer
 to what cannot be contained

in the pendulous scar of
cognitive obsolescence
banking the flames
of shipwrecked burdened
sentience
do they perceive
there can be no ambient segregated breath
filling the maimed welded lungs
awaiting the rapturous
transmigratory ecstatic
theophanies
do they perceive

88 *for Mary*

*Inside this room
there are isolated geometries
there are fossilized imprints
of demurred plainchant echo
there are dreams returning
through a stony hemispheric gauze
inside this room*

*the eye is singular
and thought is the fluid medium
through which eternity floods
the silty mind's ephemeral ache
yet speak here of love
Love hallowed
by a prismatic sunlight's unchanging essence
Love rooting
through the molecular pendulum's labyrinthine
arc
Love dissolving
the furrowed weight of angered faces
tamed by the votive candle's leaded hinge of
sleep
Love within
the numberless grains of sand
coursing through the hourglass's angular
veins
Love silencing the vacant touch
naked and hungering to fill the yielding
heart
with light*

In a field of white orchids
there is a glass and asphalt palace of sleep
there is the blackened anvil mind of tendril
faces

dead to the sound of the empty voices'
approach
there is a plastic semblance of immortal
verities

locked within a fortress of observational
exteriority
there is a staid bookish philosophical
transcendence

inhabiting the fated neutrino's
posthumous breadth
and here the caustically probing disembodied
eye
enters into the cavernous womb of resurrected
dust
where the cognitively unblemished zygote's
scab

commingles with the finite vessel's
moldering rind
where a modal tonality's circumferential zero
buries itself in the rhizomic rooted
fractal aspects of prismatic light
and where there are asps among the forsythia
bloom
or shadows cast by muted stones
and where breath in a heaving angular swale
discarded to stiffening winter seas
and where at dusk
the shimmering galactic centroids of jade
pulse entropy through veiny obsidian
hills
and where windblown aster husks
bleed the palace corridors
of golden spun tungsten light

90

What can be known
but this obstinate eye's

hemorrhaging reality's scab
what can be gleaned
from this incinerated straw effigy's
windblown cognitive ash
it is a question
which weighs heavily
on the psychotic madman's
lobotomized castrated mind
it is a question
which paralyses
 the vacant staring faces
 cowering in the shadowy stone crow's
 outstretched wing
it is a question
of what is
 immortal
 to the groping eyes
 of crepuscular meditation
of what is
 this incomprehensible sentience of light
 infusing a molecular broadloom
tapestry's blood
of what is

this inner-faceted diamond-gauze
illumination
 contorting the wintry arthritic limbs
 into a turbulent corporeal
acquiescence
of what is
 this misarticulated veiled theoretical
identity
 embedding skeletons of congealed
nebula-dust
 in a nascent embryo's grafted
fleshly shell
and what is beyond this apprehension
is ageless and incalculably distant
is a vaporous haze
 shrouding an azure sphere
 in transcendent isolationism
is a philosophical absurdity
 of a skinned lion's
 hollow-throated celestial roar
is a frayed unwound helical thread
 buried within a bloodless gnat's
impervious rind

is the enervated song
 of a crow's shredded glottis
 resonating through the marble
palace's
 blackened halls
is a restless solitude of the bearded iris
 growing unseen
 in the amber-tinted sylvan cavities
 illuminated by a primordial dawn

Ric Carfagna

July, 2011